

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Wisdom's Credentials

Speaker:

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Scriptures:

Proverbs 8:22-36

Theme: Stay close to Wisdom and you will be flooded by favor.

Introduction: Credentials can be very useful in life. When we have an important job or task to be done, it is important that the person doing it has the credentials to show that he knows what he's doing and will do it well. In Proverbs 8, wisdom shows us her credentials for life, and calls us to respond appropriately. By so doing, she is also calling us to stay away from the fakes and impostors that lead to frustration, futility, and death.

We find 2 aspects to wisdom's credentials and 1 necessary response:

1. Wisdom was there before everything (22-26)

The genesis of wisdom goes all the way back to creation, and to before. Wisdom was 'possessed' by the Lord at the beginning.

Wisdom is personified in Scripture in two ways: a) Lady Wisdom; and, b) in the NT, as Jesus Christ (1 Cor 1:24).

Wisdom points us to Jesus. He, too, was involved in creation (Col 1:15; John 1:1-5), and in him we find Wisdom itself.

As a result, we must listen to wisdom. Our lives will bear the fruit of our choice.

2. Wisdom's first great work (27-31)

Wisdom was not only present at creation; it was instrumental in it. Wisdom is manifest in all of God's works in the world.

Creation itself testifies to us of the wisdom of God. It shows us the truth of God's goodness and helps us to see through the lies of Lady Folly (1 Cor 3:18-21).

God's wisdom is never fashionable among those who are perishing. But for those who fear the Lord and walk in his wisdom, blessings await.

3. Wisdom tells us to wait (32-36)

Proverbs often pushes us to a point of decision. The choices are binary: either we fear and obey the Lord and walk wisely and in blessing; or we despise the Lord and walk as fools in futility.

Wisdom calls to us and urges us to decide well. She calls us to listen to her.

Often, listening to wisdom requires us to watch and wait. We might think that it's not working, and so we look for other options. Or we demand quicker results and try to make things happen.

Wisdom fears the Lord and obeys him. It resolves to do whatever he says and does not move on to other options.

Questions:

1. What confuses or overwhelms you? How do you need wisdom?
2. Whose favor are you pursuing? What approval matters to you?
3. Are you obeying God?